the police and troops on the workers. On December 8, the second day of the strike, artillery appeared in the streets. A school building where a meeting was held was bombarded and set on fire. Rumors spread that the Cossacks had been ordered to ransack the city, and people began to throw barricades across the streets to defend their neighborhoods. Hundreds of barricades were erected in all parts of the city—some primitive, others elaborate and enforced with stones and bricks. But these preparations were without plan; each city block tried to protect itself, and none had armed men behind the barricades.

The Moscow Soviet could not convene: its Executive Board had been arrested and there was no central party organization to direct the movement. Only weak, sporadic attempts to resist the troops were made at a few points in the suburbs—and these became known as the "armed revolt." After a few days, the government succeeded in "cleaning up" the central part of the city, but barricades still blocked access to the factory precinct of Presnya. Radical groups, hunted in other parts of Moscow, sought refuge in this area. There was some semblance of order in the defense of this precinct, but actually it lay open to attack, with throngs of people ready to die for freedom but with pathetically inadequate organization and practically no arms.

As in St. Petersburg when a pogrom was expected, fighting commandos were organized in Presnya factories—small groups of young workers with pikes and daggers, some few with pistols or hunting guns. In all, they had hardly more than two hundred pistols to defend a line more than ten miles long against the assault of some hundred thousand regulars.

Yet Presnya remained in the hands of the rebels because the military commander of Moscow did not have a single regiment that was wholly reliable. He distrusted his troops and feared that any regiment might join hands with the workers in the event of a direct engagement. To terrorize the defenders and raise the morale of his own troops, he ordered a bombardment of Presnya.

This was the climax of the revolt: all fury of field artillery against a handful of workers with useless pistols. Meanwhile, General Trepov managed to send two crack regiments of the Imperial Guard from St. Petersburg to Moscow. They were told that their assignment was a sign of the Tsar's particular trust in them, and their arrival in Moscow sealed the victory of the government.

The last act of the Russian revolution of 1905 was a massacre in Moscow, as its first act had been a massacre in St. Petersburg. On December 19, the St. Petersburg Soviet announced the end of the abortive strike. Once more the order of retreat was couched in revo-